

# THE PIONEER

PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

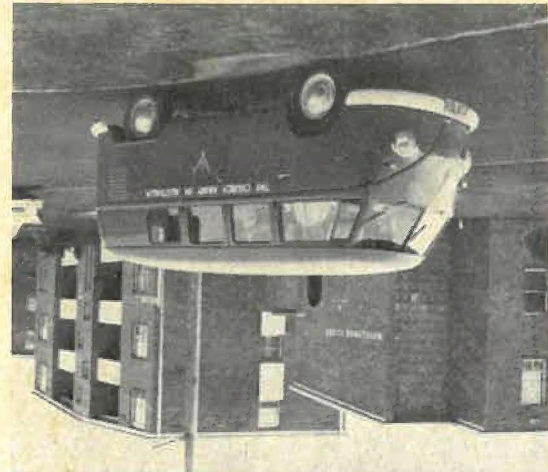


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given excellent service over the years and has been used on beach missions, inner-city work, industrial evangelism and, in more recent years, exclusively for the Training College.

It is now thoroughly uneconomical and must be replaced. In the last few months essential repairs have cost almost \$300. We cannot afford to keep this vehicle on the road yet the College must have a reliable vehicle for the use of the Training College Officer and for the many outside activities in which the students are involved in their training. The only solution is to act in faith and buy a new vehicle at a cost of about \$2,700. By the time you read this the purchase will have been made by means of a loan from the Sydney Diocesan Car Finance Board. The balance will have to be paid for in cash which will be a heavy strain on our very slender cash resources. It is hoped that the amount borrowed can be quickly repaid by gifts or grants from individuals or from other sources.

If anybody reading this would like to help us meet the cost of this new vehicle, any gift large or small, would be received with real gratitude and thanksgiving.



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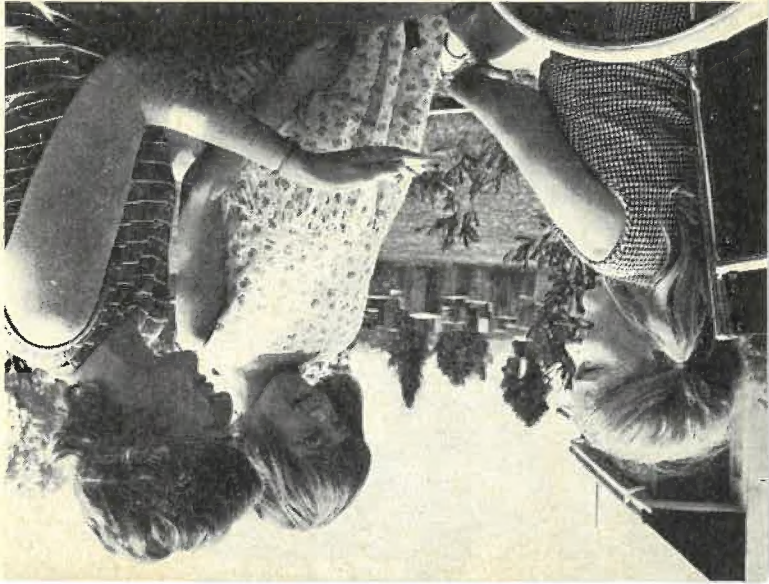
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P.O. BOX 784, NEWCASTLE 2300

THE PIONEER, MARCH, 1972





STORY TIME.  
MISS HOPE WITH TWO  
OF THE YOUNG CAMPERS.

attend a five day camp for disabled children at Blue Gum Lodge, Springwood.

The types of disabilities were many and varied but the largest groups were Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy and Spina Bifida. In order to cope with the many problems they presented, only a quarter of them were severely handicapped and in wheelchairs and the rest were moderately to mildly disabled.

It was no mean feat to organise such a camp, but with close cooperation between the Church of England and Youth Department and the Society, counsellors were schooled, appropriate activities organised and special equipment collected.

Two Society Staff attended the camp — a Social Worker who had had previous experience in camp and evaluated the camp as a whole; an Occupational Therapist who had attended a similar sort of camp elsewhere, was able to guide the counsellors in dealing with the physical and emotional limitations and capabilities of each child. A doctor and nurse were in residence at the camp.

For most of the children the camp was a new experience; for many it was fraught with difficulties to begin with, but for all it was an exciting, rewarding and enjoyable holiday. The counsellors equipped themselves admirably for the task of caring for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. They certainly displayed physical endurance on the outing to Katoomba, carrying children and wheelchairs up and down steps at Echo Point and coping with a bush walk to The Three Sisters! Swimming, craft work, games, singing and outings were enjoyed by all, but the spontaneity and exuberance which flowed forth from the impromptu concert had to be seen to be believed!

(Miss Margaret Hope).

Many people are aware that these camps are extremely worthwhile, but problems associated with unsuitable architecture and inaccessible camping sites have deterred many a well meaning person, not to mention the multifarious problems of coping with a large number of handicapped children.

When Captain Harris of the Church Army approached the N.S.W. Society for Crippled Children and said he was willing to direct such a camp, he opened up a whole new horizon for forty-eight children. At the same time his offer also won the admiration and support of the Staff who knew exactly what he was "letting himself in for."

These forty-eight children were chosen proportionately from the Society's six Special Schools to

## EDITORIAL

Every two years, in January, we hold a Staff Conference when all or most of our officers gather together in Sydney for four or five days. Long before each conference is held, months of prayer and preparation go into deciding the theme and contents of the programme.

Our recent conference held from the 24th to 28th of last January, had the theme "Breaking New Ground." This seemed appropriate for a Society of evangelists who should always be ready, willing and eager to "break new ground" in the proclaiming of the Gospel, by word and by deed. It also seemed appropriate in a special way regarding the situation facing the Church in general and our own Society, in these challenging days.

A special effort was made this time to cater for the whole of the Church Army family; officers, wives and children. We feel it is particularly important to think in terms of the corporate nature of the Church Army in our conferences and to encourage the fullest possible participation of all members.

The programme included a session entitled "The Church in the world" which was very ably chaired by Mr. Dick Manuell, one of our Board members. Mr. Manuell has written an account of this session which appears on page 5.

The two sessions on domestic affairs of the Church Army provided an opportunity to discuss, among other things, various aspects of the Society's organisation. It may be as necessary for the Society

to "break new ground" within its internal structure as in its work of evangelism in the world.

There were also three very valuable sessions on "The Church's Healing Ministry." These were led for us by the Rev. Canon A. J. Glennon and they obviously met a real need in the lives of all or most of those who were present. A brief account of these sessions appears on pages 5, and 6.

In summarising the outcome of conference it would be true to say that we were all challenged by the Holy Spirit with the necessity for "breaking new ground" in our spiritual lives and in our thinking, in our evangelistic endeavours and in the concept of our ministry in the light of our Lord's three-fold commission to His Church to Preach, to Teach and to Heal. At the same time, we were deeply challenged as a group about the future of our Society and its role in the life of the Church. Possibly all the officers of the Church Army share with the writer the vision of doubling our numbers within the next five years, bearing in mind all that this will entail in the training of new personnel, in administration and finance and in the establishment of new work.

Undoubtedly, the days ahead will demand from us all a livelier faith in God and a far greater dependence upon Him.





# CONFERENCE 1972

## Breaking New Ground



Mr. R. R. Manuell chaired the first session, "The Church in the World", and here he records a summary of what took place.

- (1) Is the church failing to contact any segment of Society? If so, what should be done?
- (2) Are the church's techniques of spreading the Gospel adequate? If not, what changes are needed?
- (3) Are God's workers being effectively prepared to do His Work?
- (4) Should the Christian people participate in industrial or political activities, including trade unions, at management levels?
- (5) What should a Christian's attitude be towards the Affluent Society, with its increasing leisure and other problems such as pollution?

The answers we produced covered a wide range, and we are still thinking about many of them. They have not been included in this report because we would like you to think about these questions too. Write and tell us your views and perhaps we can fruitfully combine them with the answers from the conference for another article.

## The Healing Touch

Captain Ron Wallis reports on the sessions on The Healing Ministry.

Memory is made up of the never to be forgotten experiences of life. The recent Church Army conference could very well be of the stuff of which memories are made, as it contained the necessary elements.

Three years later at another Church Army mission, I met more of the Society's officers and students and, the same year, I visited Sydney for a holiday and went to see the Training College. The modern buildings and surroundings impressed me but my nature rebelled against the idea of disciplined training and college life. God gradually brought me to the place where I was ready to give my life to Him and after hearing several missionaries talking about service, there came an irresistible urge to offer for full-time work. God's call was confirmed in various ways and eventually I applied to the Church Army.

The Lord has overcome all my resistance and here I am at the Training College. I am thoroughly enjoying college life and I know this is where He wants me. The fellowship is great and I am enjoying learning again. Praise be to God.

(Josie Leslie).

## TRAIN TO SERVE . . .

The Church Army needs Men and Women communicant members of the C. of E. in Australia to train for evangelistic and social work. Qualifications are — a good basic education, a realisation of God's call, qualities of leadership and a willingness to give truly dedicated Christian service.

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## KNOWING GOD

(Christine Jensen).

I was rather uncertain when first entering college, but after three weeks of college life, I can't imagine being anywhere else. I thank God with all my heart, for all His wonderful blessings to me.

The year rolled on and I still had no plans. I went home to Mareeba in North Queensland and for the Christmas holidays, planning not to return to the city. The Lord had other ideas. The end of the holidays found me back in Brisbane. I felt that as long as I was this far away from home, I may as well go to Sydney and see if the Lord wanted me in the Church Army.

During the second year at the Home, I heard the call to do full-time work for the Lord and I knew I needed training. A close friend suggested Church Army when she heard that I wanted to learn to serve in a practical and spiritual way. I wrote to Church Army as well as to many other colleges and talked to many people and just became more and more confused as to where the Lord wanted me.

My first real contact with the Living God was at high school where we had half an hour of Scripture each day which I thoroughly enjoyed. Somehow I couldn't comprehend the "simplicity of the cross." I wanted to know God but didn't know where to start. But God was working in my life and there came a growing awareness of sin and of the need for repentance.

During a Church Army mission held in my home church I learned that Jesus died and rose again for my sins and all I had to do was to come to Him and hand over my life to Him. I felt com-

